



# Media Release

## State Water Board Reminds Water Right Holders of April 1 Reporting Deadline

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**Contact: Tim Moran  
[tmoran@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:tmoran@waterboards.ca.gov)**

The State Water Resources Control Board is reminding several categories of water right holders in California that they must file their annual water use report for the 2016 calendar year by April 1.

The reporting requirement applies to appropriative water right holders, including holders of water rights permits, licenses, stockpond certificates and registrations for small domestic, livestock stockpond and small irrigation uses. Those who file statements of water diversion and use, which include pre-1914 water rights and riparian rights, are required to report water use by July 1.

The reporting requirement was adopted by the State Water Board on Jan. 19, 2016, and affects about 18,800 surface water rights. The number of surface right holders is smaller, considering a number of entities own multiple water rights. Water users who divert 10 acre-feet or more per year are also required to install monitoring devices to measure their water use.

Information regarding the new reporting and measuring regulations adopted by the State Water Board is available [here](#). This website explains the key provisions of the new regulation and the deadlines for compliance.

The goal of the regulation is to provide more accurate and timely information on water use in California to enable better management of the state's water resources. Increased use of state waters has highlighted the need for more accurate, timely information. This information is critical to ensuring that priority water needs are met, that water right holders are informed of water availability and that adequate flows remain instream for more senior downstream beneficial uses.

The regulations provide for phasing in requirements for installing measurement devices and a tiered approach to accuracy and recording frequency standards, all based on the size of the diversion.

For instance, large diverters with a claimed right to take 1,000 acre feet of water or more per year were required to have a measuring device or measuring method capable of recording at least hourly in place by Jan. 1, 2017. Those with claimed rights to divert 100 acre feet or more must comply by July 1, 2017 and record at least daily; and those with claimed rights to divert more than 10 acre feet must comply by Jan. 1, 2018 and record at least weekly.

All diverters, regardless of size, are required to report their monthly diversions on an annual basis. The regulations also allow the State Water Board to require more frequent reporting when available water supplies are determined insufficient to serve all water right holders in a watershed or necessary to protect the environment.





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Failure to comply with the regulations is a violation subject to civil liability of up to \$500 per day under the California Water Code.

The reports must be filed online using the Report Management System located at <https://rms.waterboards.ca.gov/>. Water users should have received previous correspondence containing a user ID and password, which is required for logging into RMS. If a password needs to be reset, or if a water right changes ownership, water users are responsible to contact the Division of Water Rights to get ownership records updated to obtain a new user ID and/or password or to reset an existing password. Water users can contact the Division by email at [eWRIMS@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:eWRIMS@waterboards.ca.gov) or by phone at 916-323-9393 or 916-445-2812 if they need assistance with logging in to RMS.

Frequently asked questions pertaining to filling out online reports are posted at the [RMS website](#). Water users needing assistance completing the report should contact the Division of Water Rights at 916-323-9393 or 916-445-2812. Written inquiries should be addressed to Division of Water Rights, Attn: Reporting and Data Management Unit, P.O. Box 2000, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000.

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